



## Flowering Trees

*Couroupita guianensis* Abul (Cannonball tree) of Lecythidaceae is a large semi-evergreen tree with a straight bole and spreading crown. Leaves are simple and clustered at the end of short branches. Flowers are large, showy, strongly scented with six fleshy perianth lobes. They are borne on long woody inflorescences that emerge from the main stem and older branches, almost covering the stem. Stamens are many and fused to form a structure that resembles a serpent's hood. Fruits are cannon-ball sized with brown hard shell emitting unpleasant odour on ripening. Seeds are embedded in foul-smelling pulp.